

**INFORMATION
DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
TRANSMITTAL**

To Commissioner For Patents

Enclosed herewith is a Form PTO-1449, any required copies of documents listed thereon, and any concise explanation of their relevance is indicated below per 37 CFR 1.97.

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Application Number</i> | |
| <i>Filing Date</i> | CONCURRENTLY |
| <i>First Named Inventor</i> | MICHEL M.J. DECRE |
| <i>Group Art Unit</i> | |
| <i>Examiner Name</i> | |
| <i>Attorney Docket Number</i> | NL000078A |

Please charge any required fee under §1.17(i) or §1.17(p) or any other required fee (except the issue fee) to Account No. 14-1270.

1. I certify that these documents were first cited in any communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months ago.
2. I certify that none of these documents were cited in any communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, none of these documents was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three (3) months ago.

Applicant hereby petitions under §1.97(d) that this IDS be considered after final Action or Notice of Allowance, pays the fee under §1.17(p) as indicated below, and I certify 1. or 2. as indicated above.

A fee under §1.17(p) is not required under §1.97(c), after the first Action on the merits and more than 3 months after the date of application or RCE, because I certify 1. or 2. as indicated above.

A copy of the citations is not required because they were previously submitted or cited in the parent application (or in U.S. patent application Ser. No. 09/773,131 Filing Date January 31, 2001 relied on for an earlier effective filing date under 35 U.S.C. 120).

A concise explanation of the relevance of each non-English document, as understood by the individual designated in §1.56(c) most knowledgeable about the contents, is enclosed per §1.98(a)(3).

The concise explanation of the relevance of any non-English document, as understood by the individual designated in §1.56(c) most knowledgeable about the contents, is that the document is/was (check one):

cited in the specification or considered in drafting the specification of this application;

previously submitted or cited in the parent application (or in a related patent application Ser. No. _____ Filing Date: _____);

cited as an "X" or "Y" document in a foreign Patent Office search report in a foreign counterpart application, a copy of which report is also enclosed.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

| | | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Name (Print Type) | MICHAEL E. BELK | Registration No. (Attorney/Agent) | 33,357 |
| Signature | <i>Michael E. Belk</i> | Date | <i>10/22/03</i> |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|-------------------|------------|
| Form PTO-1449 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE (REV. 7-80) PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE | | | | | | | | | | Atty. Docket No. | Serial No. |
| | | | | | | | | | | NL000078A | |
| | | | | | | | | | | Applicant | |
| | | | | | | | | | | MICHEL M.J. DECRE | |
| | | | | | | | | | | Filing Date | Group |
| | | | | | | | | | | CONCURRENTLY | |

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Ex. Int | | Document Number | | | | | | | Date | Name | Class | Sub- class | Filing Date If Approp. |
|------------|----|--------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------|--------------|-------|---------------|---------------------------|
| | AA | 6 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 12/2002 | GIBSON ET AL | 427 | 240 | |
| | AB | 5 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 10/1993 | K. TANIMOTO | 118 | 664 | |
| | AC | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | AD | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | AE | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | AF | | | | | | | | | | | | |

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| | | Document Number | | | | | | | Date | Country | Class | Sub- class | Trans. | | |
|--|----|--------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|------|----------|------------------|---------------|--------|-----|----|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Yes | No |
| | AG | 1 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 6 | A 3/1990 | JAPAN (Abstract) | G11B | 007/26 | | |
| | AH | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | AI | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | AJ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | AK | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

OTHER (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| AL | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| AM | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| AN | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | |
|----------|-----------------|
| Examiner | Date Considered |
|----------|-----------------|

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with M 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include a copy of this form with next communication to applicant.